

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 OIC-02 /063 W
-----125655 061447Z /50

O 061532Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9793
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02297

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PORG, MPOL
SUBJECT: ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY AND LONG TERM DEFENSE
PROGRAM (LTDP): MARCH 8 EWG MEETING

REF: USNATO 1060 (DTG 011903Z FEB 78)

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1. ON A FEW OCCASIONS IN THE PAST MONTHS, THE DANISH AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS (WHO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DRAFTING PART II OF THE EAST-WEST STUDY) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING WORK ON THE LTDP TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EAST-WEST STUDY REGARDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE. THE DANES AND CANADIANS SEEM CONCERNED THAT THE STUDY NOT BE AN ABSTRACT EXERCISE AND THAT THE LTDP, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED AT THE SAME TIME, SOMEHOW BE RESPONSIVE TO THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY.

2. OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERNS, AND WE SEE NO GREAT PROBLEM. THERE IS A CERTAIN LOGIC TO THE DANISH AND CANADIAN PREMISE, BUT THE PRACTICAL CHRONOLOGY IS NOT ON THEIR SIDE. THE LTDP CANNOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY UNTIL THE STUDY, INCLUDING PART III ON IMPLICATIONS, IS COMPLETED AND APPROVED.

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APPROVAL OF THE STUDY AND THE LTDP WILL LIKELY BE ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE MAY SUMMIT. MOREOVER, THE REAL ORIGINS AND WORK ON THE LTDP DO NOT DERIVE FROM THE EAST-WEST STUDY.

3. THE ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 8 EWG MEETING, WHERE, AT THE REQUEST OF DANISH PERM-

REP (REFTEL), THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EAST-WEST STUDY AND THE LTDP HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE AGENDA. THE PERTINENT DPC DOCUMENT (DPC/D(77)16) SUGGESTS THAT QUOTE THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE WILL ALSO WISH TO DRAW TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EWG ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME WHICH MAY EMERGE FROM A FRESH STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. IT IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE THAT THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ON A SYSTEMATIC BASIS ANY EVOLUTION IN THE SOVIET THREAT, FUTURE REFINEMENTS IN WESTERN STRATEGY AND ANY ENHANCEMENT IN SECURITY THAT MAY RESULT FROM EVENTUAL ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT MEASURES. END QUOTE.

4. WE BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THE ISSUE IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INTERRELATIONSHIP, IN A WAY THAT WILL SATISFY THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED AND NOT RAISE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS. ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO TAKE LINE AS NECESSARY IN EWG MEETING THAT THE OVERALL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE LTDP COMES THROUGH CLEARLY IN WORK TO DATE ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY. THERE IS LITTLE MORE ALLIES CAN DO IN THIS REGARD UNTIL PART III ON IMPLICATIONS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND APPROVED. HOWEVER, ALLIES SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE TWO PROJECTS IN WORK LEADING UP TO THE SUMMIT AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW UP. WE BELIEVE THAT NATO OFFICIALS AND THOSE IN DELEGATIONS WORKING ON THE TWO PROJECTS SHOULD MAKE IT A POINT TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH WORK

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ON BOTH PROJECTS. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM HIS STAFF THAT ASYG MUMFORD WHO WILL BE CHAIRING THE EWG WILL PROBABLY TAKE THE SAME GENERAL LINE.)

5. THIS APPROACH SHOULD MEET CONCERNS OF INTERESTED ALLIES IN THE MONTHS BEFORE THE SUMMIT. WE FLAG THIS ISSUE IN PART BECAUSE WE BELIEVE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SHOULD CONSIDER HOW, AT THE SUMMIT AND BEYOND, THE EAST-WEST STUDY MIGHT CONCEPTUALLY REINFORCE WORK ON THE LTDP. WHILE THE US AND MOST OTHERS MAY NOT NEED ANY SUCH REINFORCEMENT, THE INTERRELATIONSHIP WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE OF INTEREST TO SOME ALLIES. MOREOVER, PORTIONS OF THE EAST-WEST STUDY COMPLETED TO DATE, PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR POSTULATING A NEED FOR UNFLAGGING ALLIED DEFENSE EFFORTS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: CONCURRENCE IN APPROACH IN
PARA 4 BY OOB MARCH 8. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EAST WEST MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO02297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-0810
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803100/aaaadhkb.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8f17f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 1060
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3101774
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY AND LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP): MARCH 8 EWG MEETING
TAGS: PORG, MPOL, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f17f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014